

**Department of Homeland Security  
Information Analysis and Infrastructure  
Protection  
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report  
for 30 June 2003**

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)  
[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

**Daily Overview**

- CNN reports federal health officials said Sunday that Stampede Meat Inc., a Chicago processor of steaks and other meat products, is voluntarily recalling some 739,000 pounds of vacuum packaged steaks and other meat products that may be contaminated with potentially deadly bacteria. (See item [18](#))
- The New York Times reports a study by the Council on Foreign Relations has found that nearly two years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the United States is still not spending enough to prepare fire, police, rescue and medical agencies to handle another catastrophic attack. (See item [22](#))
- The Pasadena Star News reports that between April 3 and May 1, an Internet hijacker stole 65,000 Web site addresses belonging to Los Angeles County residents, which were then sold and used to send pornographic material and junk e-mail, and to try to hack into other computers. (See item [24](#))

**DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump***

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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**Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *June 27, The Capital Times* — **Hydrogen as fuel gets boost from University of Wisconsin finding.** University of Wisconsin–Madison researchers have come up with two advances that could help the commercialization of a process for creating hydrogen from organic wastes such as corn stalks or cheese whey. **The key advance is the discovery of a much cheaper alternative to platinum, which costs about \$8,000 a pound, for use as a catalyst in the**

**process of separating the hydrogen.** The UW researchers, led by professor of chemical engineering James Dumesic and including graduate students George Huber and John Shabaker, **tested more than 300 metal combinations before discovering the mix of nickel, tin and aluminum that costs 10 to 100 times less than platinum.** Dumesic said the combination catalyst worked as efficiently in lab tests as platinum, and at a lower temperature and pressure. A report on the UW findings appeared today in the journal Science. **Many experts believe that hydrogen eventually will replace oil and gas as the energy that drives industry and transportation. Hydrogen burns cleanly and there is an almost unlimited supply. A major technical problem has been finding a cheap way to separate hydrogen from other compounds and to store the fuel efficiently and safely.**

Source: <http://www.madison.com/captimes/business/stories/51759.php>

2. *June 27, New York Times* — **BP signs deal with Russians for venture in oil and gas. BP signed a formal agreement today to invest \$6.15 billion in a joint venture to produce oil and gas in Russia,** \$600 million less than planned when the venture was announced in February. **The new venture, called TNK–BP, will be the world's 10th–largest producer of oil and gas. BP is the third largest, after Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch/Shell.** The venture will combine BP's existing Russian assets, principally a stake in the Russian oil company Sidanco, with those of Tyumen Oil; BP's partners will be the Russian investors who control Tyumen. **The political importance of the deal, which makes Britain the largest source of foreign investment in Russia, was underscored today when Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia appeared at an oil conference here.** They spoke of BP's investment and predicted more cross–border activity. Blair called the deal a "concrete testament to the U.K.'s long–term confidence in Russia." Russia is a hot investment area for the energy industry. Tensions in the Middle East and dwindling gas reserves have driven prices up around the world, and Russia's industry is overhauling itself along more Western management lines.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/27/business/worldbusiness/27OIL.html>

3. *June 26, Platts Global Energy News* — **U.K., Russia sign landmark proliferation prevention pacts.** The U.K. and Russia signed landmark agreements in London today on nuclear proliferation prevention. **U.K. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov signed a pact that enables the U.K. to start spending tens of millions of pounds tackling Russia's nuclear Cold War legacy, including aid dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines and storing Russian spent fuel.** Work can begin immediately, the U.K. Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) said in a statement. The U.K. also officially joined the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) program. U.K. Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defense Ivor Caplin signed the AMEC document and said his ministry welcomed the opportunity to work with partners Norway, Russia, and the U.S. on the clean–up projects. "This complements the work we are already doing in helping Russia to destroy its stock of chemical weapons," he said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html>

4. *June 26, Platts Global Energy News* — **Dominion drops request to skip visual head inspection. Dominion withdrew its request for a relaxation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's required bare metal visual (BMV) inspection of the Millstone–2 reactor pressure vessel head. Dominion had proposed, in its fall refueling outage, performing**

**additional ultrasonic testing instead of the BMV inspections.** The company had cited the difficulty of removing insulation, including problems associated with asbestos in most of the collars around the vessel head penetrations. But in a June 24 letter to the NRC, Dominion said it would remove the insulation and adhere to the relevant "asbestos abatement protocols."

**Dominion spokesman Pete Hyde told Platts the company had decided to change its approach because the NRC felt the proposed alternatives to the BMV inspections were not going to provide "the information they were looking for."** Dominion wants to make sure the agency has "confidence in our inspection results," Hyde said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear2.html>

5. *June 25, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* — **Review outlines safety concerns about Wisconsin nuclear plant. An internal review of the operations at the Point Beach nuclear power plant (near Manitowoc, WI) has found inadequate management oversight and inconsistent procedures for correcting problems.** Those and other issues were identified by Hudson-based Nuclear Management Co., which runs Point Beach, in response to safety concerns raised in the past two years by federal regulators. **Company managers at a meeting Tuesday night in Manitowoc outlined changes, including a new management team, increased oversight and a disciplined approach to identifying and fixing problems at the plant.** Point Beach can produce 1,022 megawatts of power. The plant is one of two nuclear facilities that produce 21.5 percent of Wisconsin's electricity. **The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concluded that a problem with the Point Beach plant's backup cooling system was critical enough to warrant a code "red" finding, the most serious on a four-level scale that gauges the severity of safety problems. A second problem detected last year has been given a preliminary code "red" finding. The company disputes the severity of that problem.** But NRC officials outlined plans for an intensive series of safety inspections expected to take place from late July to mid-September.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3950556](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3950556)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *June 27, Dow Jones* — **SEC to require clearance by holders of stock compensation. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is expected to approve a rule Friday requiring companies listed on U.S. markets to win shareholder approval of all stock-compensation plans, people familiar with the matter told The Wall Street Journal.**

The long-awaited move will essentially prevent companies from awarding lucrative stock-option packages to executives, directors, and others without explicit shareholder approval. **Brokers holding shares for their clients will also be barred from voting on equity-compensation plans unless the owner has given voting instructions. The SEC will direct the New York Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq Stock Market and other major markets to include the rule as part of their listing standards, beginning Monday.** Listing standards require issuers to follow certain rules or face being bumped from trading on that market.

Source: [http://www.quicken.com/investments/news\\_center/story/?story=NewsStory/dowJones/20030627/ON200306270051000021.var&column=P0DFP](http://www.quicken.com/investments/news_center/story/?story=NewsStory/dowJones/20030627/ON200306270051000021.var&column=P0DFP)

7. *June 26, Reuters* — **Federal Reserve should focus on systemic risk from banks. The Federal Reserve should focus more of its supervisory efforts on larger banks that could threaten the entire financial system if they failed, Minneapolis Fed President Gary Stern said.** "Risk is not evenly distributed across banks," Stern said. The Fed is the main supervisor and regulator of a range of financial institutions, including bank holding companies. Stern warned that supervisors spent too much time on small banks since supervisory resources were allocated mainly according to the distribution of banks, not their assets. **"Because there are many more small than large banks, (they) end up using the bulk of their resources to supervise banks that no one could claim pose a systemic threat," he said.** Last month, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan raised concerns about risks posed to financial markets by the concentration of the more than \$100 trillion derivatives market in the hands of a few investment banks.

Source: [http://www.forbes.com/business/energy/newswire/2003/06/26/rt\\_r1012211.html](http://www.forbes.com/business/energy/newswire/2003/06/26/rt_r1012211.html)

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## **Transportation Sector**

8. *June 27, Associated Press* — **FAA studying the impact of airline bankruptcies on airports. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is studying what the federal government can do to bolster the finances of airports affected by airline bankruptcies.** The agency submitted a request for public comment Thursday, asking airport managers, airlines and fliers to outline their concerns for a report scheduled for publication in September. **FAA spokesperson Marcia Adams would not specify the type of assistance the federal government might provide, although she said the agency's areas of concern include reduced landing fees, fuel sales and lease agreements.** Congress asked Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to look into the issue in early April, shortly after US Airways emerged from Chapter 11. The Arlington, VA-based carrier is threatening to shut down its hub at Pittsburgh International Airport unless costs there are dramatically reduced. The airport, meanwhile, increased rent for all carriers last week in order to offset declines in passenger traffic. **The agency, an arm of the Department of Transportation, said it would also examine how the economic health of airports is affecting bond markets, an important source of financing for the industry.**

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/0627AirportEconomics-ON.html>

9. *June 27, Associated Press* — **Airline execs take pay cuts while seeking union concessions. Top executives of Alaska Airlines say they will take substantial pay cuts while seeking**

**worker concessions to return the West Coast regional carrier to profitability. Chief executive William J. Ayer wrote employees this week that he will cut his own pay by 20 percent, The News Tribune of Tacoma reported Friday.** Three other executives — George Bagley, executive vice president of operations; Gregg Saretsky, executive vice president of marketing and planning, and Bradley D. Tilden, chief financial officer, will take 15 percent cuts, the newspaper reported. The company previously announced that five unions representing Alaska Airlines employees have been asked to accept pay cuts and work rule changes. Other cost-cutting measures being considered by Alaska Airlines include elimination of first-class seating, free meals and marginal routes, Ayer wrote. **The airline has not been profitable for three years amid an industry slump and wants to reduce expenses by about 15 percent to 7.25 cents per air seat mile, excluding fuel costs, by 2005.** Several larger airlines have persuaded employees to accept pay wage cuts during bankruptcy or under the threat of bankruptcy.

Source: <http://www.kirotv.com/money/2297936/detail.html>

10. *June 26, The Daily Post–Athenian (Tennessee)* — **Remote control trains?** A dispute between two railroad unions has found an audience with McMinn County (Tennessee) Commissioners as one union attempts to get a resolution passed here banning the use of remote control train operations. **Rick Skidmore, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division 782 in Etowah, argues that moving trains using remote control operations (RCO) is a safety issue, and could present a danger to the community. The BLE,s proposed resolution states that no railroad shall operate remote controlled locomotives within the boundaries of McMinn County, Tennessee, until certain safety considerations are met.** Concerns expressed in the resolution are mainly over hazardous materials shipped on some train cars and operation of remote control locomotives over highways and in locations accessible to the public. “This is not a labor dispute. This is a safety concern of McMinn County residents who work in the railroad industry, said Skidmore.” Our concern is strictly with the safety involved. **But, on the other side of the issue, CSX railroad officials and members of the United Transportation Union claim that RCO has made switching cars and building trains safer than older methods. And, they said that RCO is, for the most part, limited to classified train yards, like the Norfolk Southern in Chattanooga, which builds many trains each day and have about 100 tracks.**

Source: <http://www.dpa.xtn.net/index.php?table=news&template=news.vi ew.subscriber&newsid=101520>

11. *June 26, CNN* — **New airport scans could expose travelers, literally.** A scanner the government is testing for airport screening reveals too much more than meets the eye to be comfortable for most passengers. When Susan Hallowell, director of the Transportation Security Administration's security laboratory, stepped into a metal booth that bounced X-rays off her skin, her dark skirt and blazer disappeared on the monitor, where she showed up naked — except for the gun and bomb she had hidden under her outfit. **The agency hopes to modify the machines with an electronic fig leaf — programming that fuzzes out sensitive body parts or distorts the body so it does not appear so graphic. Another option would be to restrict the screener to a booth so no passing peepers can see the image,** said Randal Null, the agency's chief technology officer. Null hopes to conduct pilot programs with the machines at several airports this year. **A test run with volunteers at Orlando International Airport in Florida met with mixed results, he said. Some were uncomfortable with the technology —**

called "backscatter" because it scatters X-rays — while others proclaimed it "a whole lot nicer than having someone pat me down," he said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/ptech/06/26/seethru.security.ap/index.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

12. *June 27, Jamaica Gleaner* — **Ports to get new X-ray machines. The Jamaican government is expected to sign a contract for the supply of \$21 million worth of X-ray machines for the island's ports.** But, port spokesmen say that the machines are not expected here before another six to seven months. The machines are being procured from an American supplier, and part of the contract deal, will stipulate that the supplier arrange for the training of port personnel who will be operating the equipment. **The Montego Bay and Kingston ports are to benefit from the new X-ray machines. The introduction of X-ray machines for scrutinizing import and export cargo, is one of the requirements for certification of any port involved in maritime transport with the United States.** The machines will be used exclusively to inspect cargo and containers. At the moment the security system at the ports is unable to conduct electronic surveillance of an entire container passing through the ports. The new equipment will change all that.

Source: <http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20030627/news/news1.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *June 27, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **McDonalds' antibiotic ban could have large impact. McDonald's recently adopted a policy that prohibits its direct suppliers from using medically important antibiotics as growth promotants in livestock after 2004.** A recent study by researchers in the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University (ISU) shows what happened in Denmark when a similar ban was put in place for pork producers. Denmark first imposed a ban in pork production at the finishing stage with producers encountering few additional costs. **When Denmark implemented a ban at the weaning stage, however, producers encountered severe health problems and incurred large costs. In addition, a complete ban actually increased the total antibiotics used, because Danish vets were forced to prescribe more therapeutic agents, those that were used most often in human medicine.** The ISU researchers estimate a U.S. ban would increase costs by approximately \$4.50 per animal in the first year. **The total cost of a ban to the U.S. pork industry spread across a 10-year period could be in excess of \$700 million.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=706&yr=2003>

14. *June 27, Associated Press* — **Canada to adopt new cattle guidelines. To combat mad cow disease, Canada should increase the monitoring of possible outbreaks and ban the use of feed made from cattle, sheep, or other ruminant animals, a panel of experts said Friday.** The report by a four-member team concludes Canada's investigation of a lone case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) detected in an Alberta cow last month. **Canadian officials**

hope that quick adoption of the report's recommendations will persuade the United States and other nations to reopen their borders to Canadian cattle and beef products. The import bans have cost the cattle industry millions in lost production. In Washington, U.S. officials already are planning improved methods of monitoring livestock. **The U.S. and Canadian cattle industries are highly integrated, with animals regularly traded across the border, and Canada selling more than 70 percent of its live cattle to the United States.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-Canada-Mad-Cow.html>

15. *June 27, Ledger* — Canker found in Hendry County, Florida. State inspectors have found a new outbreak of citrus canker in a Hendry County grove, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announced Thursday. The 894-acre West River Grove lies approximately four miles from the nearest previous occurrence of the bacteria and outside of the county's existing quarantine areas. About 58 grapefruit trees in a 15 acre blocked tested positive for canker and are being removed. Inspectors are surveying the rest of the grove and surrounding areas.

Source: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030627/NEWS/306270359/1001/BUSINESS>

16. *June 26, Associated Press* — Connecticut bans poultry expositions on fears of avian flu. Fears of avian influenza have prompted Connecticut health officials to ban chickens from state fairs this summer. Three million chickens were sickened in late February during an outbreak of the disease at the Kofkoff Egg Farm in Bozrah and Lebanon. State Department of Agriculture Acting Commissioner Bruce Gresczyk said that the poultry ban at state fairs was ordered as a precautionary measure. "We still don't know where our current outbreak of avian influenza came from," Gresczyk said. **The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved vaccinations for Kofkoff's birds, avoiding a slaughter that could have devastated the state's agricultural economy. But Jeremy Chartier, owner of Peeper Pond Farm in Willington, said he is concerned that many farms continue to use manure from Kofkoff Egg Farm, the region's largest chicken farm.**

Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-26224306.apds.m0002.bc-ct--pouljun26.0.818560.story?coll=hc-headline-s-local-wire>

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## **Food Sector**

17. *June 25, Reuters* — **FDA unlikely to seek labels on cloned animal meat, milk.** U.S. consumers will most likely not know when they buy hamburgers, bacon, and milk products from cloned animals, a technology that could be available by next year, government and industry officials said Wednesday. **John Matheson, regulatory review scientist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said the agency would not require labels on cloned animal products if they are considered as safe as traditional food.** "If we find no problems with the products, we have no legal basis to require labels or have companies differentiate between them," he said at an annual biotech industry conference. **The FDA was expected to release its risk assessment concerning the new technology later this summer. The report will be the foundation for new FDA guidelines, which could allow these products to be available by next year. Last year, the National Academy of Sciences found no significant**

**health risks from cloned animal products.** The report did recommend stronger U.S. government oversight to ensure its safety.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/technology/newswire/2003/06/25/rtr1011351.html>

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

18. *June 29, CNN* — **Stampede Meat products recalled.** Stampede Meat Inc., a Chicago processor of steaks and other meat products, is voluntarily recalling some 739,000 pounds of vacuum packaged steaks and other meat products that may be contaminated with potentially deadly bacteria, federal health officials said Sunday. The Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service said the products subject to the recall were produced between March 17 and March 22 and bear the establishment code "EST. 19113" inside the USDA inspection mark. **The meats were distributed to restaurants, institutions and retail stores nationwide. The products were also sold directly to consumers through door-to-door sales. Additionally, the products were distributed to institutions in Canada.** The products may be linked to five to E. coli illnesses in Minnesota, Kansas and Michigan, health officials said. **Steaks generally are not considered a high-risk source of E. coli. However, the recalled products were injected with meat tenderizers and other chemicals and that process may have introduced the E. coli bacteria to the inside of the product, the FSIS said in a news statement.** Consumers with questions can call Stampede at 1-800-353-0933.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/06/29/meat.recall.ap/index.html>

19. *June 27, ABC Online* — **SARS upsurge would have milder impact.** A future upsurge in the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus would likely have a "milder" global impact because of precautionary steps already taken, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says. WHO spokeswoman Christine McNab says there is a lot of speculation over what would happen if there is a resurgence. **"Overall, WHO has good reason to believe that if SARS did resurface later this year for example, then the global impact would be milder."** McNab says health systems have shown that they can quickly go onto high alert and the most affected areas of Hong Kong and Singapore plan to maintain precautions against SARS until at least the end of the year. **She says the steps needed detection, isolation, and disinfection, are now well known and are simple.** "We also know that the control measures used, to control plague and other diseases, continue to work," McNab said. **She also says intensive research is now underway on the virus to find a quick and reliable diagnostic test, while WHO has also decided to step up its ability to react to this kind of epidemic.**

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/justin/nat/newsnat-28jun2003-5.html>

*June 27, Herald Sun* — **HIV antibody structure unravelled.** Scientists have unravelled the structure of an antibody that effectively neutralizes the HIV virus which causes AIDS, the key to a possible vaccine against the fatal acquired immune deficiency syndrome, according to a report released Friday. "What we found was an unusual configuration of the antibody in which its two Fab domains, the antigen recognition units, are 'interdigitating' with each other," wrote Scripps Research Institute Professor Ian Wilson. "This new structure is an important step toward the goal of designing an effective vaccine against HIV, and it gives researchers a new way to design antibodies in general," said the report. "It may enable us to make antibodies that recognise whole new sets of molecules," wrote Scripps Professor Dennis Burton, the other leader of the research.

Source: [http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5478,6661704%255E401,00.html](http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5478,6661704%255E401,00.html)

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## **Government Sector**

21. *June 29, Sun-Sentinel (Palm Beach County)* — **Homeland Security Department bolstered by ham radio users.** The annual amateur radio operators' Field Day event starting this afternoon has taken on greater meaning now that the hams have formed closer ties with the Homeland Security Department. **Members of the Broward County (Florida) amateur, or "ham" radio, community will be test their emergency preparedness skills in Plantation today and Sunday to show they play a vital and now official role as a communication medium during a crisis.** "We hope the public will come out and see firsthand what this event and amateur radio is all about," said Scott Primack, spokesman for the American Relay Radio League, the national association of ham operators. **Hams will contact as many other Field Day stations as possible in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean, simulating the fast on-air skills needed to assist local officials and agencies during disasters.** "The role the ham operator plays in an emergency will depend on the emergency," Primack said.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/sfl-pcham28jun28.0.1889325.story?coll=sfla-news-palm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

22. *June 29, New York Times* — **U.S. spending against terror is too low, report warns.** Nearly two years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the United States is still not spending enough to prepare fire, police, rescue and medical agencies to handle another catastrophic attack, a study by the Council on Foreign Relations has found. The federal government now plans to spend \$27 billion over the next five years to help fire and police departments, emergency medical teams and veterinary response teams, the group reported. **At this level of spending, it said, "the United States remains dangerously ill-prepared." But if the federal government alone were to fill the spending gap, the group said, federal spending would have to be nearly quintupled.** The task force made a wide range of recommendations, from a restructuring of the Congressional committees charged with security allocations to increased

federal support for 911 systems across the country. **It said more spending was needed to prepare hospitals police officers and firefighters for an attack involving weapons of mass destruction.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/29/national/29COUN.html>

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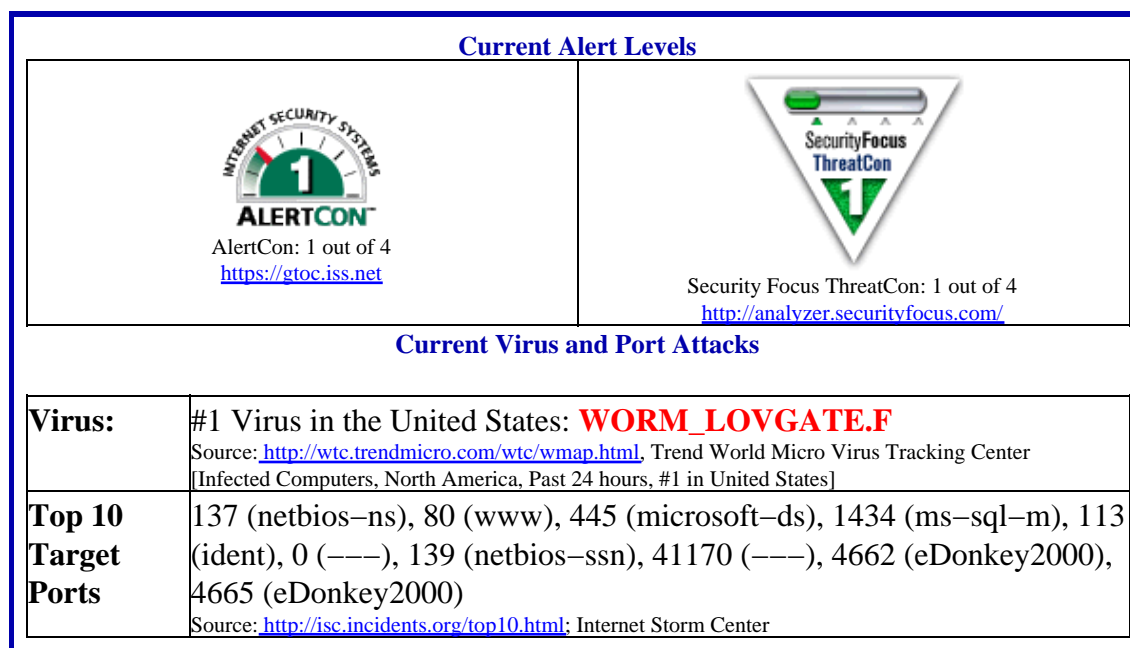
## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

23. *June 26, National Journal* — **Ridge: Centralized tech spending key to homeland security.** Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Thursday that his agency will centrally control all information technology spending in its fiscal 2005 budget in order to guarantee that new computer systems deliver the right intelligence to the right people in a timely manner. The new department plans to spend \$829 million on upgrades to information analysis and computer security in 2004. Ridge told a group of about 300 IT contractors in Alexandria, Virginia, that **information compatibility is crucial in the fight against terrorism.** He said **Homeland Security is developing an IT roadmap to create a centralized data system accessible by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.** The plan will be complete in the fall, he said, and it will follow these five principles: All levels of government must be treated as one; information must be captured once at the source; all information must be accurate; systems will be secure and constantly updated; and civil liberties will be respected. Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0603/062603td2.htm>
24. *June 26, Pasadena Star News* — **Cyber-thief nets 65,000 county Web addresses. An Internet hijacker stole 65,000 Web site addresses belonging to Los Angeles County between April 3 and May 1.** The addresses were then sold and used to send pornographic material and junk e-mail, and to try to hack into other computers. **No harm was done to the county during the scam. It apparently only took a phone call and follow-up e-mail to the American Registry of Internet Numbers for the hijacker to change ownership of the county's Web addresses into another name,** according to the county's Chief Information Officer Jon Fullinwider. The registry, according to county officials, put the addresses into the name of Atriva, which turned out to be a bogus company. An investigation is continuing to find the hijacker. Source: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206~22097~147\\_9783,00.html](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/Stories/0,1413,206~22097~147_9783,00.html)
25. *June 25, SecurityFocus* — **AT&T lets phone fraud victims off the hook. AT&T said Wednesday that it would forgive all of the outstanding long distance charges that the company had been trying to collect from victims of the so-called "Yes-Yes" voicemail subversion fraud.** Last year fraudsters began cracking weak and default PINs on individual and small business voice mail boxes provided by local phone companies, then changing the outgoing messages to say "yes, yes, yes" over and over again. The newly-agreeable voice mail could then be used for third-party billings. **The scam left scores of victims holding liable for thousands of dollars of long distance calls they never made—typically between \$8,000 and \$12,000.** AT&T insisted that the victims pay up, arguing that it was the consumer's poor voice mail security that was at fault. When pressed, the company sometimes offered to absorb 35% of a fraudulent billing. The company announced Wednesday that it's will abandon those collection, but **the amnesty offer only applies to past victims of this particular type of**

fraud.

Source: <http://securityfocus.com/news/6158>

## Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

26. *June 30, The Christian Science Monitor* — Mideast takes a first wary step; Palestinians worked toward a cease-fire yesterday as Israel declared a Gaza pullout. The classic formula for Middle East peacemaking is land for peace. This week, after nearly three years of conflict, Israel and the Palestinians are attempting a scaled-down version: **pummeled territory for temporary truce**. In a quid pro quo intended to add momentum to a US-backed peace plan known as the road map, Israel has agreed to withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip and militant Palestinians groups are getting ready to cease their attacks against Israelis for three months. While the deal may yield short-term calm – at least one Israeli commentator is calling the cease-fire the end of the "1,000-day war" – a long-term peace remains as elusive as ever. The terms of this week's trade-off again suggest that Israel maintains the upper hand in this conflict and that engaging in violence has hurt the Palestinians. **Should the cease-fire hold, the Israelis will get the "quiet" they have long demanded as a precursor to the resumption of substantive negotiations. The Palestinians will get back some of what they had three years ago, when they enjoyed autonomy in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.** Should the withdrawal indeed occur – it is expected to begin today – the Palestinians will regain authority over a largely impoverished people hit hard by the conflict.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0630/p01s01-wome.html>

27.

*June 29, WUSA-TV* — **Suspected terrorists arrested in Washington, D.C. area.** Eleven men, nine of them U.S. citizens, were charged with conspiring to join a Muslim extremist terror group that has been blamed for thousands of deaths in the disputed Kashmir territory of India and Pakistan. **A federal indictment unsealed Friday contends the men, who lived in suburban Fairfax County just south of Washington from early 2000 to May 2003, obtained AK-47-style assault weapons and ammunition, trained in military tactics and visited terrorist camps in Pakistan linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba group dedicated to driving India out of Kashmir. Six of the men were arrested Friday, two were in custody earlier and three were being sought.** U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty called the indictment "a stark reminder that terrorist organizations of various allegiances are active in the United States. And these groups exploit America's freedom as a weapon to recruit and position themselves on our shores." **There have also been reports of links between the Kashmir group, whose name means "army of the righteous," and al Qaeda, McNulty said. Although Friday's indictment does not allege any plots to stage attacks here, it does say that members were told that U.S. troops in Afghanistan were legitimate targets and that "the United States was the greatest enemy of Muslims."**

Source: [http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news\\_article.asp?storyid=19936](http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.asp?storyid=19936)

**28. *June 27, Associated Press* — Arrests in Albuquerque wildfire. Officials said charges were expected against three people in connection with wildfires that forced evacuations near the Rio Grande this week, while investigators in Arizona said fires there were likely "human-caused."** Meanwhile, three smaller wildfires burned across California on Thursday, the worst one destroying two homes and a shed near Lake Isabella, about 150 miles north of Los Angeles. Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez said late Thursday night that three people were in custody. "Charges to follow," he said. Chavez said investigators feel confident they've got "at least one of the fires resolved in that regard." Investigators have not linked the two fires, which burned about a mile apart, but have not ruled out a connection, he said. **Chavez said earlier that investigators were looking for two juveniles who might have set off fireworks that sparked the first fire, and for an adult who may have been responsible for the second blaze.** Albuquerque residents returned to their homes along the Rio Grande on Thursday as firefighters tried to stamp out the remnants of a smoldering blaze that transformed a riverside forest into a patchwork of black and gray.

Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/06/24/national/main56009\\_1.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/06/24/national/main56009_1.shtml)

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